

Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *New Home Sales Statistics Users* Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1) Monthly

0.3%;	1	None
62.7%;	192	Retail Sales
41.2%;	126	Wholesale Trade
49.0%;	150	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
93.8%;	287	Housing Starts
80.4%;	246	Building Permits
100.0%;	306	New Home Sales
65.0%;	199	Value of New Construction Put in Place
56.5%;	173	Housing Completions
42.2%;	129	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
57.5%;	176	New Residential Construction
29.4%;	90	New Mobile Home Placements
40.8%;	125	Monthly Imports and Exports
38.9%;	119	Current Industrial Reports
46.1%;	141	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 306; Forms 306

(2) Quarterly

51.9%;	69	Quarterly Financial Report
77.4%;	103	Current Industrial Reports
6.0%;	8	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
16.5%;	22	Quarterly Tax Survey
8.3%;	11	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 133; Forms 306

(3) Annual

50.8%;	135	Annual Retail Trade
40.6%;	108	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
19.9%;	53	Annual Survey of Communications
22.6%;	60	Transportation Annual Survey
22.6%;	60	Service Annual Survey
49.2%;	131	County Business Patterns

28.6%;	76	ZIP Code Business Patterns
35.7%;	95	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
51.1%;	136	Characteristics of New Housing
61.3%;	163	Annual Building Permits
43.6%;	116	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
28.6%;	76	Annual Capital Expenditures
52.3%;	139	Annual Survey of Manufactures
41.7%;	111	Current Industrial Reports
14.7%;	39	Research and Development Survey
25.2%;	67	Plant Capacity Utilization
9.0%;	24	Education Finance Survey
14.3%;	38	State Tax Collection Survey
6.0%;	16	Annual Public Employee Retirement
11.3%;	30	Annual Survey of Public Employment
12.4%;	33	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
21.1%;	56	State Government Finances
35.0%;	93	Annual Imports and Exports

Replies 266; Forms 306

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

86.8%;	264	Printed Publications	16.4%;	50	FAX
75.3%;	229	World Wide Web (Internet)	13.8%;	42	Direct (E-mail) delivery
28.9%;	88	CD-ROMs	1.6%;	5	Regular mail
22.0%;	67	Diskettes	10.2%;	31	Other

Replies 304; Forms 306

- EBB (of Stat-USA) Phone calls
- Newspaper
- Economic Bulletin Board
- from others in the organization we use ftp site extensively.
- News media
- Commerce Department Economic Bulletin Board
- News Services such as Bridge.
- Electronic "Bulletin Boards"
- Check values by telephone
- also use microfiche in some cases.
- time-share vendor (private)
- Bulletin Board Commerce Dept.
- Economic Bulletin Board-Commerce Dept.
- hard copy computer run
- Analytics
- News Services-Market News.
- DRI DATABASE
- Internet, ProNet
- Individual sources using census bureau data
- sec,Secondary Vendor (R
- Newswires
- Intermediate Data Vendor.3,4,6,

- Fax from Japanese media
- Stat-USA
- Tape, Cartridge
- STAT-Usa Bulletin Board
- Overnight Delivery of NIA data
- CD Rom & Publications in Library
- By phone to construction statistics
- Subscribe to America Statistic Index on Microfiche
- News Recall Services-i.e. Dow Jones Reuters
- STAT-USA+WEFA Group

(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

70.3%;	204	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
30.3%;	88	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
26.6%;	77	ASCII delimited
19.7%;	57	ASCII flat files
15.2%;	44	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
11.7%;	34	Do not manipulate data
2.8%;	8	Other

Replies 290; Forms 306

- download from www.Census.gov
- TSO files
- Charts and Trends
- Excel
- PDF formats were the best
- Word Document
- SAS data sets

4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

46.5%;	125	5	16.4%;	44	3	8.2%;	22	1
16.0%;	43	4	6.3%;	17	2	6.7%;	18	Don't know

Replies 269; Forms 306

(7) b. E-mail notification:

49.2%;	128	5	15.8%;	41	3	6.9%;	18	1
15.4%;	40	4	7.3%;	19	2	5.4%;	14	Don't know

Replies 260; Forms 306

(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:

51.2%;	130	5	14.2%;	36	3	6.3%;	16	1
19.3%;	49	4	2.4%;	6	2	6.7%;	17	Don't know

Replies 254; Forms 306

(9) d. Search:									
65.3%; 179 5		11.3%; 31 3		1.5%; 4 1					
18.6%; 51 4		1.1%; 3 2		2.2%; 6 Don't know					
Replies 274; Forms 306									
(10) e. Download complete data sets:									
70.0%; 189 5		7.0%; 19 3		1.9%; 5 1					
14.1%; 38 4		3.7%; 10 2		3.3%; 9 Don't know					
Replies 270; Forms 306									
(11) f. Download selected data:									
76.3%; 212 5		5.8%; 16 3		0.7%; 2 1					
12.9%; 36 4		2.2%; 6 2		2.2%; 6 Don't know					
Replies 278; Forms 306									
(12) g. Software help/tutorials:									
20.7%; 51 5		27.2%; 67 3		12.6%; 31 1					
18.3%; 45 4		14.6%; 36 2		6.5%; 16 Don't know					
Replies 246; Forms 306									
(13) h. Publication-quality printing:									
31.4%; 80 5		19.2%; 49 3		14.9%; 38 1					
18.8%; 48 4		11.8%; 30 2		3.9%; 10 Don't know					
Replies 255; Forms 306									
(14) i. Charts and graphs:									
29.5%; 78 5		18.6%; 49 3		14.4%; 38 1					
19.3%; 51 4		14.0%; 37 2		4.2%; 11 Don't know					
Replies 264; Forms 306									
(15) j. Geographic maps:									
27.2%; 70 5		16.0%; 41 3		14.8%; 38 1					
21.8%; 56 4		12.8%; 33 2		7.4%; 19 Don't know					
Replies 257; Forms 306									
(16) k. Other, please specify:									
82.4%; 14 electronic bulletin board				17.6%; 3 Other					
Replies 17; Forms 306									

- Publications like QFR to be in spreadsheet format or mdb for easy data manipulation after downloading.
- ACROBAT FILES, which you may include in item h.
- Update full report at release time

(17) I. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

33.3%;	1 5	0.0%;	0 3	0.0%;	0 1
33.3%;	1 4	33.3%;	1 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know

Replies 3; Forms 306

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

21.8%;	64 No	78.2%;	229 Yes
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Replies 293; Forms 306

(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

64.2%;	190 5+ years	44.9%;	133 trends up to 1 year
59.5%;	176 trends up to 5 years	0.0%;	0 Other
48.6%;	144 latest 1 or 2 periods		

Replies 296; Forms 306

(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

53.2%;	156 Create value-added products/services
36.9%;	108 Perform patron/client inquiries
31.4%;	92 Inform marketing decisions
27.6%;	81 Republish in newspaper/journal
24.9%;	73 Inform investment decisions
19.1%;	56 Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
7.8%;	23 Locate new sites
0.3%;	1 Other

Replies 293; Forms 306

- Store data in database.
-

(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

71.6%;	207 Definition of terms
57.1%;	165 Narrative text describing survey results
55.7%;	161 Sampling and estimation methodology
41.5%;	120 Survey design
12.5%;	36 None
1.7%;	5 Other

Replies 289; Forms 306

-
- Explanations of data changes/revisions
 - frequency and availability
 - Direct contact with Census analysts
 - Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.
 - Econometrics Analysis
-

(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

- We are very much interested in unadjusted counterparts of tables 7 & 8 of the FT900 release being made available on internet on the day of release. Publications like QFR also need to be made available in spreadsheet or mdb for us to further manipulate data.
- No. Increasingly more and more data sets are becoming available electronically-which makes our work easier by eliminating manual inputing of data.
- Regional retail sales estimates (cancelled after 1996)
- More local info. (PMSA at least)
- Non-residential building permit data.
- State/MSA non-residential construction data!
- Find it difficult to get info a local area ie. N.E., Urban, but not specific such as New York. Also, like annual building Permits in greater detail to states or county level.
- Monthly RetailSales is no longer in print-- it is time consuming to get if off the ineternet because of the download time. It's a waste of valuable research time.
- Retail Trade Monthly - Regional Data Survey - Blue Pages, Building Permits - Non-Resident & Additions.
- I do not receive all the requests all the time.
- Retail sales for Central Business Districts; zip code retail sales, naufacturers, wholesale, etc; zip code housing data including rent and home prices; SIC business fro sip codes.
- If I request "personal incom 1989-1992 monthly", the database would show me what I requested data.
- Apartment (Multi-Family) Statistics.
- Information on nonresidential construction.
- Need more monthly physical output dat for manufacturing.
- Data on residential construction; alterations, renovations and conversions; and county level mobile home shipments.
- No.
- New remodeling dat from American Housing Survey.
- MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income estimates.
- Timely release of data in an easy-to-access format (ie: XLS, 123, etc.) with revisions and option of pulling complete time series.
- Non-residential building permits--number by type of building.
- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
- Accurate and timely international statistics on the air conditioning, refrigeration and heating industry.
- I'd love to see employment data by SIC based on place of residence. Also wish for reconciliation between RIMS, SIC, & NAICS.
- Int'l trade data on internet are inadequate. Only press releases are there. When data are revised, if data are not in the press release, there is no way to get the revisions (ex: monthly data from exhibits 6&7 of FT900.
- Monthly historical trade data.
- Number of Mobile Homes & Value of, by state, on a monthly basis. (Currently only published annually) -- Also, by county, if possible.
- No.
- We really just want to get the monthly statistics listed in Question #1 timely-- the day they are released/announced to other new agencies.
- More timely data.
- Data on non-residential construction.

- Non-residential building permits data had value of new non-residential construction part in place.
- 1) NAICS to harmonized code concordance. 2) Timely plant capacity utilization at greatest detail level possible. 3) Windows version import data/monthly annual easy to use historical with full detail. 4) New Home sales (without land).
- Location (Census Block/Block Group) of employment for employees', commutes for work between counties.
- Yes--Commercial building permits--Bring them back now!!!
- Resume geographic estimates of retail sales.
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- Wish you were more current...
- Would like to have detailed Boiling permit data on line. Would really like to know which census tracts correspond to zip codes (and counties).
- Some data are not historical enough. Most of the time, I need data as far back as 20-30 years ago.
- Seasonal Population - estimates. More information on affordable housing-market.
- State, county & local permit data for nonresidential construction. Use to get this.
- Monthly Retail Sales for U.S. Metropolitan Areas.
- BLS has great site. Well organized. Need to make it easy to find seasonal factors and benchwork.
- More frequent substate mtg. stats (annual survey is state wide only)
- Household Expenditure Data at State Level.
- I need quarter-by-quarter growth figures in areas such as sales, inventories, GOP, construction,etc.
- Pollution abatement expenditures by SIC
- 1). Employment in types of projects, such as residential construction. 2). Construction productivity measures.
- Commercial & industrial building permit activity!
- I would like housing start data broken down to each state.
- Would like Government Finance series in print form.
- 1). GDP 2). Need to see how prior data releases of components affect quarterly advance.
- Better categorization of Import/Export information. It is very difficult to determine how much of some of our products were imported or exported.
- Want monthly retail trade by state & MSA back.
- Non-residential Building permits.
- Housing stats and completions by state, MSA Value of construction put-in-place by state, MSA
- Yes, Non-residential permits and regional retail sales.
- More extensive time series!
- Using CPS-online. The current terret use does not allow for cross-tabs and sub-group data collection.
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Geographic data by product class, especially in county business patterns. Totals at the 4-digit industry level aren't detailed enough.
- Expenditures for non-residential construction, especially non-residential reconstruction.
- We always require information broken out by minority group status, even if they are forecast.
- Make data reports easier to print off of the web.
- Average expenditures per residential improvement project for single family homes by region. Average value for residential permits by region.
- Move capital expenditure data--more frequent, more detailed
- Monthly exports by state's origin of productions by product. (highly disaggregated). Monthly each states' imports by county of origin by product.
- Housing Starts by State; Retail Sales by State
- Advanced Retail numbers should have "jewelry stores".
- Website is extremely difficult to navigate.
- Non-residential permits!!
- The annual survey of manufacturers needs to be in ASCII or pdf format; as well as pdf. We spend too many hours re-entering the data.
- Need more timely delivery of C-50 data (Res. Improvements). There is no contemporary measure of remodeling activity.
- Need detailed PPI data.

- Median income and poverty tables are not in spreadsheet form (they one were).
- Would like to see reinstitution of non-residential permit statistics.
- Non-residential new construction and renovation
- We would like to see more economic data and analyses at the state & MSA level.
- Rent data and vacancy rates.
- Quarterly data, analyzed growth rates for all statistics. Currently, only some of the data is shown as a quarterly growth rate analyzed.
- More Detailed Segmenting
- MSA retail sales
- Monthly service sector sales counterpart data to retail, wholesale, and manufacturing shipments.
- Permits for remodeling and non-residential construction.
- The more detailed (down to specific product line) the better.
- The more history, the better.
- Commercial, Industrial, and other non-residential construction put-in-place!
- Immediate posting of data revisions when significant revisions are undertaken.
- Non-residential construction data outside California! Bring it back!
- Data at the metropolitan area level, e.g. retail sales, commercial building permits (office, industrial, retail).
- We have a need for long historical time series and for long-term forecasts.
- Information about how well the ACES programs capture new business formation and business deaths.
- More immediate access to most current export & import data.
- Bring back retail sales at metropolitan area level.
- Timely business indicators for MSA's.
- Commercial Building Permits County level on a timely basis.
- Census bureau data by county: retail sales, housing starts, manufacturing stats, imports/exports, new home sales.
- Non-residential building permit data collection should be restored by state and metro area!
- Commercial building permits, Commercial real estates sales.
- As a foreign academic library, we are concerned about cost of access.
- Estimates of coverage by county for building permits better state and local data.
- Report on production of industrial fabrics
- Yes-I need non-residential construction series (commercial, industrial, etc.) on a geographic basis-as used to be done!
- Very disappointed that non-residential building permit data is no longer being tracked--our models rely on this!
- Building Permit data are not as complete as before - Rental vacancy rates & rental would be helpful.

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

- (24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

58.6%;	164	4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
37.5%;	105	Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
34.6%;	97	2-digit major groups
33.6%;	94	3-digit industry groups
15.4%;	43	NA (don't use SIC-based data)
2.1%;	6	Other

Replies 280; Forms 306

- 7-digit in some cases
- Greater detail when available
- The greatest level available--CIR level. Product level.
- I don't use this much, but others in the agency do!
- D & B's 2+2 system 8 digits
- Use SIC categories extensively

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

29.7%; 86 I was unaware of this
 32.4%; 94 I am partially aware, but lack details
 37.9%; 110 I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 290; Forms 306

12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

92.1%; 186 A brochure that explains NAICS 28.7%; 58 Conference announcements
 63.4%; 128 NAICS implementation plans 3.5%; 7 Other

Replies 202; Forms 306

- Comparison-SIC VS. NAICS Similar to when SIC definitions change.
- Contacted by local information office fo Bureau.
- A manual and numerical list
- Disaggregate SIC for each sector.

(27) No Thanks -

71.3%; 67 I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
 28.7%; 27 I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 94; Forms 306

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

54.0%; 162 Business 4.0%; 12 Media
 18.0%; 54 Government 2.3%; 7 Individual
 11.7%; 35 Academic/Research 0.7%; 2 Library
 6.7%; 20 Association 2.7%; 8 Other

Replies 300; Forms 306

- Information and consulting firm
- Consulting
- Economic Development
- Building Material Manufacturer
- Consultant
- Library (University)

- University
- Corp. Library

(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

22.9%; 67 Yes 77.1%; 225 No

Replies 292; Forms 306

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

77.5%; 227 None 2.0%; 6 Census Information Center
 7.2%; 21 State Data Center 9.6%; 28 Other
 3.8%; 11 Business/Industry Data Center

Replies 293; Forms 306

- SDC Affiliate
 - Philadelphia Regional Office
 - user of Census data
 - State Data Center Affiliate
 - Special Sworn Employee
 - Federal User
 - City Government
 - Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
 - Census Liason
 - Affiliate Agency
 - Government
 - Depository
 - Affiliate Data Center
 - Fund the CIR-MA35N
 - Regional planning agency.
 - DOC Staff
 - Congress
 - Economist
 - Data use.
 - Heavy user
 - GPO Depository
 - Trade Association
 - BEA, U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Client
 - Associate Data Center
 - Affiliate
 - Consumer of housing data
 - Federal Depository Library
-

(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

77.2%; 217 Yes 22.8%; 64 No

Replies 281; Forms 306

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- It would be nice to have all reports available in spreadsheets format. For any publication reports that contain large tables and data, mdb file format would be an ideal too.
- We greatly appreciate this survey. I'd like to stress one major concern we have: As you move

- toward complete Internet delivery of data--please continue to publish "hard copies" of the economic reports for us to compare as backup. We have noticed that occasionally there are errors in Electronic Bulletin Board and Internet files--so we rely on the hard copy as backup. We use it as a safeguard. Thank you and feel free to contact me at your convenience.
- The library relies heavily on Census data but we have a need for the information in both printed and downloadable (manipulable) formats. The library would purchase both the printed format as well as subscribe to the census website.
- The Bureau of the Census has done a great job with its web sites. With the exception of some unpublished data, everything is available through the internet. The unpublished data is received by direct e-mail.
- 1). I cannot say that this is pressing, but I would like to see the results of the state-level retail trade series. 2). I need data files that are easily read into software such as SAS and SPSS. I also tend, when I am looking for something, to require as much history as I can get, because that is what is demanded of me. It would help me a great deal if all federal agencies that release data (especially Census, BEA, and BLS) would release an actual data file (e.g. GDP.DAT rather than GDP. BEA) at the same time as the press release, much as The Federal Reserve does with its industrial production notices. More history data on CD-ROM products, such as USA Counties would sometimes be useful as well (say 1940 or 1950 if available).
- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my news off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- Joe Cantalupo is no longer in service to the County of Rockland.
- When is 1997 Census to be available? Please keep as much of the data in print as possible--
Thanks!
- Census bureau data is always helpful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- Thanks for asking!
- Over the past several months, I have begun to utilize the U.S. Census Bureau's web site, specifically the economic briefing room. I use this information in conjunction with the Kiplinger letter to keep up with marketing analysts. Having the information on the web makes it very easy to access. Thanks!
- The data we are interested in is housing stats, retail sales, etc. For the Jackson, Tenn., area. We compare those with previous months & years and with national averages.
- Thank you for your great service!
- Whenever I have used statistics & required assistance I have found the staff both friendly & efficient. I remain very impressed with your web site & service provided.
- This survey was filled out by three people.
- I prefer e-mail contacts rather than phone, as I am frequently not available at my phone for extended periods.
- Keep up the good work--

1). Does table 3=CPI-U?
on monthly reports?

- We serve a varied clientele (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subjects. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic media will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- Stat-USA is an extremely useful tool for retrieving data. I would like to see more files in spreadsheet format and the ability to download particular segments.
- Census has done a terrific job by putting so much material on the web. Keep up the good work.
- Please contact ASAP: Bob Davidson, Gov't Information Service Section Palm Beach county Library System Service

- 3650 SUMMIT BLVD. 33406
(561) 233-2600, ext. 164
email Robert ID@PB.SEFLIN.ORG
- Good job on the web site.
- Respondent provided voluminous, illegible comments throughout that could not be deciphered to record.
- Sorry for the delay--the survey didn't arrive until 8/12/98.
- Would be very interested in some information available on the Internet.
- PDF files are big and we have to retype the data for analysis. Having raw or spreadsheet/database data would save us much time. BLS's web site is a good one to study.
- I think that this user survey is an excellent idea; you should poll users periodically.

I would be happy to participate in a users' panel or advisory group.

- Desperately need this information from NAICs. Emerging technology/company information requested everyday.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- Be sure that all information is made available in the most "user-friendly" manner possible!!
- Tables which have no column headings and which one must consult separate documents are highly confusing.
- I always use your data for the economic releases. My major concerns are: timeliness of data availability on web and being able to print the data from the web without having to reformat printing fonts. I also to the revisions when they come out, but often the location and structure of the revisions is confusing.
- Current setup on the web is extremely frustratingly for someone trying to print/download data and reports

-> Make .XLS files available with lots of historical data.

___ Use .PDF filrds for pasting your releases -Having to flow ascii into a word processor and reformat is not the way to go. Email sub would be helpful

- The web site is generally very helpful a lot of information-sometimes difficult to locate information wanted.
- - Census should also provide information on Agriculture sector.
- Provide up to date GSP data for status by digit SIC.
- Provide "Green GSP" data.
- Would be helpful if classes were offered in best techniques when seeking govt. data on the Web.

Location on Web tha would state what media given U.S. Govt. was available in (papers, Internet, etc.)

- Census is always quick and dependable. Great job!
- I think the advancements on the Web over the past few years have been excellent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has put much of this data in raw form on their FTP site. I'd like to see the Census Bureau make the FTP site more accessible and have more information.
- I find the Census Website to be fairly difficult to use. It's hard to find information that I need. For example: I was trying to find tables on the number of Households & spent probably 45 minutes locating it.
- I work as a local government long range planner. My duties include socio-economic analysis as requested by the public, politicians and officials. The Census Bureau's Web Site is one of my key resources.
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- More documentation and instructions for obtaining data from gohper directories would be helpful.
- prefer e-mail

- Keep up the good work.
- I'd like to receive a list of publications at a State Data Center is entitled to receive on the regular basis. I'd also like to get the description for the data we receive.
- Don't know if understood fully all questions, and maybe some confusion about my answers.

But look to dat from the Census Bureau as important information to not only general business, but in possible use for publication to inform, specifically, members of the hardwood lbr business.

- If feasible, include columns heading names (labels) in spread sheets, as well as row labels. Not now done in monthly building permits diskettes and STF3-A CD-ROM, for example.
- Many of your monthly data crimes current, per month of 2 months ago but not year ago. I would be useful to have year ago and /or a full updated file with historical data. For example: new orders, inventories, etc.
- Good to see this survey! Dealing with you via the Internet and mail is going well. However, trying to reach people ove rthe phone is still a major headache.
- Glad more of your publications are being made available on the Intenet! Suggestion for format of employment data-group by years first, then industry. Is there some alternative for obtaining non-residential building permits.

Figure 1: